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Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 50

September / October 2015

Numbers 9 / 10

Jean Elsen & ses Fils

Congo Chefferie Medal: First Design..... 138

Dean Thomas

The “LIMA” Coinage of England’s George II 139

Robert Ronus

Rulers of Many Lands..... 150

C.D. Carson

Yazı Mı, Tura Mı? 158

Welcome to the September / October edition of your bulletin magazine. As I write this message the summer ANA convention is beginning in Chicago which for those of us in the states marks the midpoint of the numismatic calendar.

In this issue Robert Ronus provides us with a perspective on royal claims to contested or lost territories in his article “Rulers of Many Lands”. Dean Thomas is back in these pages with an article on the “Lima” coinage of George II of England. These “Lima” coins are ever popular but in his article you may find a new understanding of them.

We have a short one page article from Elsen with an image of the first design *chefferie* medal for the Congo. In 1876 King Leopold II of Belgium hosted the Brussels Geographic Conference at which the International African Association was formed. This association’s ostensible goal was to explore central Africa bringing “civilization” and its benefits to the African peoples. However, the association soon disintegrated with Leopold himself assuming full authority over the “Congo Free State” essentially controlling it as his private possession. Rising German ambitions threatened European powers in their colonization of Africa. The Berlin Conference of 1884–85, also known as the Congo Conference, was held to set some “rules” for Europe’s accelerated push into Africa. The “Congo Free State” was recognized as the private possession of the “Congo Society” thus legitimizing Leopold’s position. Recognizing that the Congo was too large to administer without local authorities the Congo Free State instituted a system of local *chefferies* (chiefdoms) whereby local men were appointed chiefs. These chiefs were subject to the government but had authority over local issues. The *chefferies* medals were a symbol of their authority. History indicted Leopold for using forced labor and institutionalizing human rights abuse in the process off harvesting rubber. After exposure of the abuses the resultant public outrage led Leopold to surrender the Congo to the government of Belgium in 1908.

I hope you enjoy your NI bulletin and visit the NI website to read it in color.
<http://numis.org>

Herman

Congo Chefferie Medal: First Design
Jean Elsen & ses Fils, NI #2775



Obverse: TRAVAIL ET PROGRES around large central star. **Reverse:** ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO / CHEFFERIE / INDIGENE / RECONNUE with ornament and three stars below.

Insigne de chefferie indigène reconnue, 1er modèle (1891). Cuivre nickelé, 61 mm, avec boule aplatie. Médaille instituée par décret le 6 octobre 1891, à remettre aux chefs indigènes lors de leur investiture gouvernementale. [Recognized indigenous leadership badge, 1st design (1891). Nickel plated copper, 61 mm, with flattened ball (the ball was the original suspension attachment which would have had a ring passing through it). Medal instituted by decree Oct. 6, 1891, to be given to indigenous leaders upon their government appointment.]

Courtesy of Jean Elsen & ses Fils S.A. Auction 126. Lot 1609. 12 September 2015.

NI

The "LIMA" Coinage of England's George II

Dean Thomas, NI #2762

After forty plus years of collecting I am still surprised to encounter the occasional topic with widespread acceptance of misinformation that has long been refuted but refuses to wither away. One such topic is the attribution to Admiral Anson for the silver treasure used to strike the George II "LIMA" coins. This misattribution to Anson is very widespread and oft repeated. In fact it is so often mentioned it is almost common knowledge among collectors despite that it is incorrect.

Mr. Harry Apling, writing in "Seaby's Coin & Medal Bulletin" in March 1970, believes that the first reference to Admiral Anson and the LIMA coinage occurred in 1762 in Thomas Snelling's *View of the Silver Coin & Coinage of England*. Needless to say, Mr. Apling also relates that Snelling and his followers should have known better, because the ever-popular Gentleman's Magazine published the true story at the time it happened in their issues of August, September, and October 1745. In addition, a medal issued later in the year commemorated the event.

Londoners, and the rest of Great Britain were treated to news of a great captured treasure in the August issue of *The Gentleman's Magazine* on pages 418 and 419 which are scanned, enlarged for readability and segmented for placement below.

*Extract of a letter from Capt. James Talbot,
commander of the Prince Frederick privateer,
dated at Kinfale, July 31.*

Dear Sir,

WE sailed from Corwes, June 2, in company with the Duke, Prince George, and several ships laden with wheat for this country; the 5th I was obliged to lie off Dartmouth, and send a boat a shore to see if I could get sailors, the wind being fair the corn ships proceeded, and on the boat's returning at night without any men I made sail, the 7th we saw a sail, I made a signal for all to chase, we had not been long at it when the most melancholy accident that can be represented happened, the ship prince George, with double reef top-sails, no wind of consequence, overset, I run immediately to her assistance, but was not able to save more than 20 men, out of 134, among the drowned was my dear brave nephew Geo. Talbot and doctor Hack-et; never did any thing shock me so much; I had resignation enough to submit to the will of the almighty; I accordingly proceeded on keeping a good offing from the coast of Portugal, met

nothing worth relating till the 16th, when I saw seventy sail, I bore down on them, they having only one 40 gun ship to take care of them, were uneasy until they found who I was, they came from *Oporto* and *Lisbon*, and having got trifles out of some of them, for which I paid, parted with them. The 20th I made the island of *St Mary's* one of the western islands, I stood away to the westward, to cruize between the said islands, and the great bank of *Newfoundland*; did not see any thing from the 16th as before, that I parted th the convoy, until *July* 10, between 5 and 6 in the morning, saw three sail bearing west, the wind at S. S. E. and smooth water, we bore down on them, they making little account of us kept their wind, a little past seven I fired a gun at them, when up went their white rag and formed a line, the duke being a little too hasty went to windward and fired away, I bore to leeward of the next to me within pistol shot, in that manner we entertained each other three hours, their captain being for blowing the ship up was mortally wounded, she struck, here I lost poor *Curtis* doing his duty like a good officer, he was shot thro' the head with a cannon-ball. Whilst I had to do with this ship the largest of all got on my off bow, put me between two fires, and having taken one, lost no time but went and returned the largest his visit, at the same time the smallest crouded away, I gave orders to the *Duke* to chase her, whilst I would render an account of the second; accordingly he did, I thought I should not have had much to do as the one I was engaged with was left alone, I found my mistake for they kept me near 3 hours at warm work, and their captain being mortally wounded she struck. The captain of the *Duke* seeing night coming on and looking dirty and that I should be puzzled

to take care of two ships so disabled, he quitted the chase, or we should have had the third; when my boat returned from on board the last ship I took, I was agreeably surprized to find the first officer prisoner that came on board, tell me they came from *Callao* in *Peru*, until then I took them to be *Martinico* ships. The first I took, which I ordered the *Duke* when he came back to take possession of, is call'd the *Marquis d'Antin*, 450 tons, 24 guns, Capt. *Magon Serpere*, the other the *El Lewis Erasme*, 500 tons, 28 guns, Capt. *Pedro Lavigne Luenell*; the that got away was called *Notre Dame de Libe-rance*, 300 tons, 18 guns, Capt. *Pedro Litan*; these two we have taken have in gold and plate about three million of dollars, besides a loading of cocoa, they would have been much richer, had their goods sold, but they left two thirds unfold; they will turn out between 7 and 800,000 *l.* sterling, no bad beginning; had it not been for that misfortune of the prince *George* oversetting, we should have made a most delightful campaign of it, as it is, it is tolerably well, only for the loss of the poor people, I had five men killed and 25 wounded; young *Master-son*, who was along with commodore *Anson*, has behaved to admiration, a great part of our gaining the day is due to him. To conclude I tore the ships so with my twelve pounders above and below, that the next day the weather coming on bad were obliged to throw the last prize's guns and two anchors overboard to keep her above water, they lost all their masts and we have been obliged to tow them ever since; thanks be to the Almighty, we arrived here yesterday at five in the afternoon.

The *Prince Frederick* had 18 guns 12 pounders, 6 9 pounders, 4 4 pounders, 244 men, one Lieut. and 5 men killed, 25 wounded.

The *Duke* had 20 guns 9 pounders, 150 men, 7 men killed, and 8 wounded.

The *Lewis Erasmus* had 28 guns, 9 pounders, 66 men, the captain and one man killed, and four wounded.

The *M. d'Antin*, had 24 guns, 9 and 6 pounders, 68 men, the captain 6 officers and men killed, and 8 wounded.

On board the *Lewis Erasmus*.

Dollars	1,277,726
Pistoles, value in dollars	221,229
Gold bars, value in dollars	30,000
Wrought plate, value in dollars	10,000

1,538,955

On board the *M. D'Antin*,

1,387,589

Doubloons, value in dollars	79,464
Gold bars, value in dollars	2,000
Wrought plate, value in dollars	1,000

3,009,008

This is what is already known, and abstracted from their lading of cocoa, the value of the ships, guns, &c.

Furthermore, pages 428-29, carried an extract of a letter from an anonymous lieutenant "J.S." on board the Prince Frederick:

Extract of a letter from a lieutenant on board the Prince Frederick privateer, dated Kinsale, Aug. 6. (see p. 418.)

S I R,

THE 12th of July (which is now the toast here) we took two rich ships, the *Marquis D'Antin*, and the *Lewis Erasmus*. As we shot their masts away, we were obliged to tow them for three weeks, till we got here, in which we had the good fortune never to be disturbed by *Jack Spaniard* or *Frenchman*. These ships went out four years ago to *Peru* and *Chili*, and had on board (as by their bills of lading now come to hand) one million sterling in gold

and silver coin, besides 800 tons of cocoa, and we are every day discovering more treasure that has been concealed. There were a vast number of persons of great distinction of *France, Spain, Peru, &c.* We have a marquis of *France*, a governor of *Peru*, friars in abundance, one of whom threw a

gold chalice into the sea of great value that it should not come into our hands.

We treated our prisoners in such a manner as none were ever treated before. We took not the value of a penny neither watches, money, rings or swords from any of those gentlemen. We took all the cash and plate the common people had, and at sending them on shore here, we gave every common man 20 guineas.

They say here they were treated as friends, not as common enemies. We sent an express to *London*, and shall wait here for a convoy.

We are now overhawling our prizes, and moving the cocoa into other ships, and are every now and then finding wedges of gold; besides this day the *Spanish* gentlemen (finding we would not ransom the ships as they wanted) have discovered a vast treasure hid in the sides of the ships, for which we are to give them a large præmium. I compute my share, as near as we can guess, will come to about 3500 l.

Your assured friend, J. S.

At least two examples of the rare medal can be found in the collections of the American Numismatic Society: accession numbers: 0000.999.37382 and 2006.33.1. The images below are courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com), auction Jan 08, 2014 lot 3056.



1745 Lima Treasure Captured, Bronze, 37.1 mm, 17.7 g (Betts-381)

Obverse: In ex., IULII • X • / MDCCXLV - Three ships of war in action in the foreground, with letters LE, PF and MA (the Louis Erasme, the Prince Frederick, the Marquis d'Antin) above their topmasts; in front, a rowboat; in distance, a chase between two ships, with letters ND and D (the Notre Dame, the Duke) above their topmasts. **Reverse:** In ex., VENDEBUNT LOND • / OCT • 1 • ET • II • / MDCCXLV - Two infant Fames, that on left bearing a trumpet and that on right a laurel branch, holding two medallions, side by side, with busts facing one another of IAC • TALBOT • and IOHA • MORECOCK •; below, a treasure wagon disappearing left, marked 44, followed by another, with high cover, marked 45, drawn by six horses in line.

Additionally, an oil painting was created by Charles Brooking (British, 1723-1759) sometime between 1745 and 1753, depicting “The Taking of the French merchantmen Marquese d’Antin and Louis Erasme by the English privateers Prince Frederick and Duke, 10th July, 1745.” This painting is in the collection of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich and can be viewed at:

<http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/11858.html>

Coverage of the great seizure continued over the next two months in the Gentleman’s Magazine:

September 1745. Page 497: Sunday 8. *The Prince Frederick and Duke privateers arrived at Bristol with the treasure taken out of the two French ships....*

October 1745. Page 554.: Tuesday 1. *Part of the treasure taken by the Prince Frederick and Duke privateers was brought to town [London] in 22 waggons guarded by the sailors. Wednesday 2. The remainder came in 23 waggons and was all carried to the Tower. The whole weight of the treasure including the package amounts to 78 tons, 13 hundred, 1 quarter and 16 pounds of which a considerable part is gold.*

October 1745. Page 555. Wednesday 16. *The proprietors of the Prince Frederick and Duke privateers waited on the King and offered 700,000 GBP (their share of the prizes) to be immediately employ’d for his majesty’s service, which was accepted and the money is to be repaid by Parliament.*

Mr. Apling’s article also provided some research done by Mr. Howard Linecar in 1966. This material was an Order from the Master of the Royal Mint, Wm. Chetwynd, to “Mr. Tanner Chiefe Engraver and the Several other Engravers of his Majesty’s Mint....”

Application having been made by the Bank that the word Lima may be placed under the head of the King upon the Silver which was taken by the Duke and Prince Frederick Privateers and shall be sent to be coined. These are to authorize and direct you to putt upon the Dyes to be prepared by you for the coining of the said Silver, the word Lima under his Majesty’s head for which this shall be your Sufficient Warrant. Mint Office. 11th Decembr. 1745.

W. Chetwynd.

From the above referenced documents and commemorative medal we see that the treasure associated with the “LIMA” coinage is not from Anson’s expedition but **Morecock and Talbot**. The data lists treasure coinage as DOLLARS which would be Spanish silver eight-reales and smaller denominations and it lists PISTOLES & DOUBLOONS which would be Spanish gold coins of various denominations.

Only four denominations of silver coins with the provenance mark LIMA were minted during the years 1745 and 1746. Apling listed them in his APPENDIX II (note: where Apling has “Decimo Nono” the full edge lettering is DECVS • ET • TVTAMEN • ANNO • REGNI • DECIMO • NONO • (An Ornament and a Safeguard. In the Nineteenth Year of the Reign), however my specimens show TVTAMEN • ANNO • REGNI • DECIMO • NONO•.

LIMA coinage of 1745 and 1746.

CROWN	1745	none issued
	1746	LIMA Edge: Decimo Nono
	1747	none issued
HALFCROWN	1745	Roses without LIMA Edge: Decimo Nono
	1745	LIMA Edge: Decimo Nono
	1746/5	LIMA Edge: Decimo Nono
	1746	LIMA Edge: Decimo Nono
	1747	none issued
SHILLING	1745	Roses without LIMA
	1745	LIMA
	1746/5	LIMA
	1746	LIMA
	1747	Roses
SIXPENCE	1745	Roses without LIMA
	1745	LIMA
	1746	LIMA
	1747	none issued

1745 & 1746 Silver Coins of George II:

Obverse: Bust facing left surrounded by GEORGIVS • II • DEI • GRATIA • (By the Grace of God) and LIMA below. **Reverse:** Four crowned shields with coats of arms representing the Kingdom of England united with Scotland, the Royal Arms of France (3 fleurs-de-lis), Ireland (harp), and the King's Domains in Hannover. The date and the Latin abbreviation:

• M • B • F • ET • H • REX • F • D • B • ET • L • D • S • R • I • A • T • ET • E •

(By the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick & Luneburg, High Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire.)

Additionally Apling listed the related gold denominations; half guinea and guinea 1745 and five guineas 1746. Apling also raised the question, "Why LIMA?" He believed it was an easy answer, as Captain Talbot of the Prince Frederick stated that "the first officer prisoner that came on board tell me they came from Callao in Peru...." So, there you have it. But wait! I would suggest that the cargo originated at Callao, but the ships were actually loaded at Portobelo. The latter port was founded in 1597 on the northern coast of the Isthmus of Panama and during the Spanish colonial era was the chief Caribbean embarkation point for the exportation of Peruvian silver to the mother country.

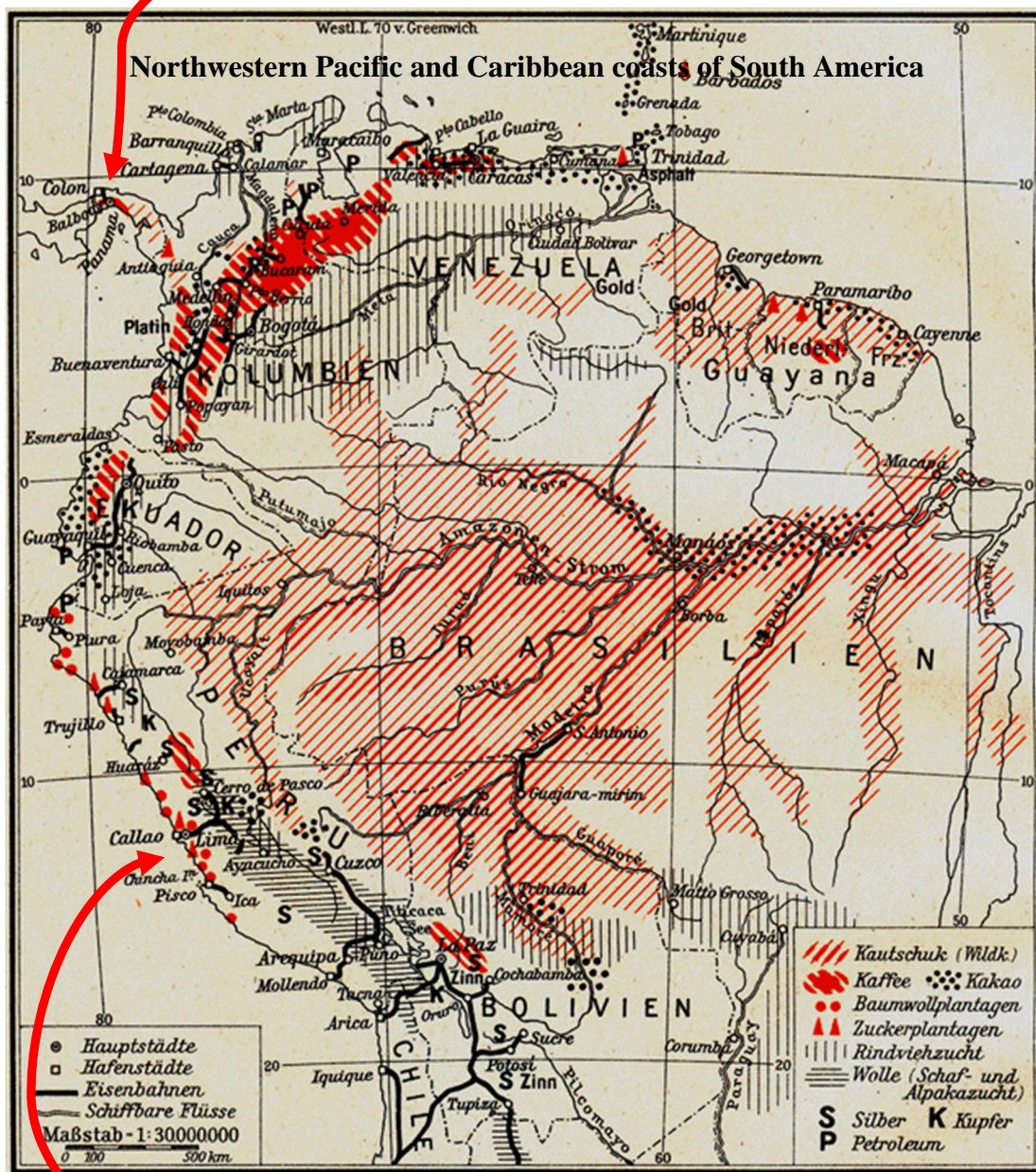
This is not to say that the French ships had no other possible route to the North Atlantic. They certainly could have taken their precious cargo and headed south to Cape Horn, however, "rounding the Horn" was extremely hazardous. Gale force winds occurred 5 percent of the time in summer (December through February) and 30 percent of the time in winter (July to September). Charles Darwin was quoted as saying about the Cape Horn passage: "One sight of such a coast is enough to make a landsman dream for a week about shipwrecks, peril and death."

In addition to Apling's article, please see Mr. Jim Duncan's article "The Enigma of Lima" written for the London Numismatic Club:

<http://www.mernick.org.uk/lnc/talks/lima.htm> (accessed 29 July 2015).

Numismatists are indebted to both writers for setting the record straight.

**Puerto Bello
Caribbean (Atlantic) Coast**



**Callao (seaport serving Lima)
Pacific Coast**

Illustrated here are a few items relevant to the events and times.

“Tudor Rose” button of a British naval lieutenant.



Spanish silver coins exported via Callao would most likely have been from Lima and Potosi issued during recent Spanish reigns those being Charles II, Philip V and Louis I. Below is an eight reales and some one-reals of Charles II.



Following below are specimens of the four denominations of LIMA coinage produced in silver (images are not actual size).



1745 Sixpence without LIMA and a 1746 with Lima (nominal 21mm diameter)



1745 Shilling (12d) with LIMA (nominal 26 mm diameter)



1746 Half Crown (30d) with LIMA (nominal 34 mm diameter)



1746 Crown (60d) with LIMA (nominal 39 mm diameter)

Rulers of Many Lands

Robert Ronus, LM #139

Borders changed many times over the turbulent centuries of European history. Coinage changed more slowly. There are quite a few cases where rulers continued to issue coins claiming titles to territories their ancestors had lost long ago.

A prime example is England.

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, the kings of England had extensive French possessions and were frequently involved in French affairs. When Charles IV died in 1328 leaving his queen seven months pregnant, France needed a regent. The dead king's closest male relative was Edward III of England, heir through his mother, Isabella, to the French throne. The French nobility did not want the English king as their overlord and, on the grounds that succession through a woman was invalid, chose his cousin Philippe de Valois as regent and eventually king as Philippe VI. To make things more complicated, Edward was also a feudal vassal of the King of France in his capacity as duke of Aquitaine in France. In May 1337 Philippe formally confiscated Aquitaine and Ponthieu on the grounds of Edward's disobedience and rebellion and invaded Edward's territories. In response, Edward renounced his feudal allegiance to the King of France and asserted his own claim to the French throne.

This was soon reflected in his coinage. Edward's first coinage, bore the title EDWARD ANGL DNS HYB (King of England and Lord of Ireland). After he claimed the throne the title on his major coins became EDWARD D G REX ANGL Z FRANC (and France) D HYB. Figure 1 is a groat from that period minted in York:



Figure 1

Obv.: EDWARD ◊ D ◊ G ◊ REX ◊ ANGL ◊ Z ◊ FRANC ◊ D ◊ HYB ✠ (mintmark for 1354-55). Facing crowned bust in tressure of 9 arches. Rev.: POSVI DEVM ◊ A DIVTOR EM ◊ MEV M (I have made God my helper (cf. Psalm 54.4)). Inner legend: CIVI TAS EBO RACI (city of York). Long cross, 3 pellets in each angle. Diameter 27 mm. 4.35 g. Spink 1572. North 1164. CC.E34D-045.

During a brief period of peace after Treaty of Brétigny in 1360, the title reverted to ✠ EDWARD ☉ DEI ☉ G ☉ REX ☉ ANGL ☉ DNS ☉ HYB ☉ Z ☉ AQT (and of Aquitaine), as shown in this London groat (Figure 2):



Figure 2

Apart from the change of title, the design is the same, although of course CIVITAS EBORACI is replaced by CIVITAS LONDON (Spink 1616, North 1252f, CC.E34D-060).

After the peace broke down in 1369, the title went back to EDWARD DI G REX ANGL FRANC D HIB, as in this beautiful gold noble:



Figure 3

Obv.: EDW ARD ✠ DI ✠ GRA ✠ REX ✠ ANGL ✠ Z ✠ FRANC ✠ DNS ✠ HYB ✠ Z ✠ AQT (stops are saltires). King standing on ship with sword and shield with quartered arms. Rev.: ✠ IHC ✠ AVTEM ✠ TRANSIENS ✠ PER ✠ MEDIVM ✠ ILLORVM ✠ IBAT (but Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went his way (Luke 4:30)) (stops are double saltires). Floriated cross with crown and lion in each angle, E. in center, in tressure of 8 arches in circle. Diameter 35 mm. 7.72 g. Spink 1521. North 1281. CC.E3NB-090.

This issue was struck in London and Calais. This particular coin with a flag at the stern was struck in Calais, Edward's mint on the French mainland, which was not only useful for English traders but also sent a powerful political message.

Edward's claiming the throne of France was the beginning of the Hundred Years' War. After many successes including major victories at Crécy (1346) and Agincourt (1415), the English position deteriorated (partly thanks to Joan of Arc). In 1475 the Treaty of Picquigny finally ended the War and the English king, Edward IV, formally renounced his claim to the French throne. In 1558 the English lost their last remaining Continental possession, Calais.

Nevertheless, the kings of England continued to keep the lilies of France, the fleur de lis, on their coat of arms and even bore the title for another 245 years. Here is a George III shilling of 1787:



Figure 4

Obv.: GEORGIUS • III • DEI • GRATIA •. Laurelled bust rt. Rev.: • M • B • F • ET • H • REX • F • D • B • ET • L • D • S • R • I • A • T • ET • E • (of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick & Lüneburg, Arch-Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire). Cross of 4 shields with the arms of England/Scotland (3 lions passant, lion rampant), France (3 lis), Ireland (harp) and Brunswick-Lüneburg (2 lions passant (Brunswick), lion rampant in field of hearts (Lüneburg), horse (Hannover) & Arch-treasurer's escutcheon (crown)). Diameter 25 mm. 6.02 g. Spink 3746. CC.G3SH--065. KM 607.2

Finally, in 1803, George III dropped his French title in deference to the exiled Count of Provence, titular King Louis XVIII of France, who was living in England after the French Revolution.

Straying from the subject for a moment, it is interesting to note that the George III shilling was worth 12 pence and was therefore theoretically worth 3 times the Edward III groat or fourpence. However, its weight is only 1.38 times that of the groat (6.02 divided by 4.35). There had been a lot of currency devaluation over the four hundred years between the striking of the two coins.

The Dukes of Savoy were another family who held on to their titles long after history had moved on. Their coats of arms are particularly impressive. Here is a modest 1 Lira (or 20 soldi) coin of Vittorio Amadeo II (1675-1713):



Figure 5

Obv.: VIC • AM • II • D • G • DVX • SAB •. Bust rt. Rev.: PRIN • PEDE (= of Piedmont) REX • CYPRI 1683 over crowned multi-field arms, below in scroll S(oldi) • 20. Diameter 28 mm. 6.06 g. CNI I, p. 360,24. Moro. III, 27. Traina 71. Simonetti 23/4.

The original territories of Savoy, going back to the 11th century, were mainly south of Lake Geneva, in modern Italy, France and Switzerland. They were raised to a duchy in 1416 by the German king Sigismund of Luxembourg. Piedmont, a neighboring territory in northern Italy with Turin as its capital, had been acquired by marriage in 1046. But King of Cyprus?

However, let's look at the coat of arms in detail:

Coat of arms:

- 1st qtr.: Jerusalem (cross potent), Lusignan (lion over horizontal bars), Armenia (lion) and Cyprus (lion), quartered.
- 2nd qtr.: Westphalia/Saxony (horse, crown of rue (heraldic name for diagonal top of crown over horizontal bars) & Angria (3 water lilies).
- 3rd qtr.: Chablais (lion rampant) and Aosta (lion rampant).
- 4th qtr.: Piedmont (cross), Montferrato (divisions per fesse), Genevois (checky) and Saluzzo (divisions per fesse), quartered.

With escutcheon with Savoy (cross).

Chablais and Aosta had belonged to the family since the 11th century. Amadeus VII the Peaceful, Count of Savoy, purchased the County of Geneva in 1401. Less peacefully, he also conquered the Duchy of Monferrato and the Lordship of Saluzzo. But what are the German lands of Saxony, Westphalia and Angria, let alone Jerusalem, Armenia and Luxembourg doing on these arms? And who or what was Lusignan?

The Westphalia / Saxony / Angria arms first appear in the Savoy coat of arms under Emanuele Filiberto I (1553-80). I have been unable to find out why. It is true that the family had Saxon origins. The house of Savoy was descended from Umberto I, Count

of Sabaudia or Savoy (1003–1047 or 1048) whose family are thought to have originated near Magdeburg in Saxony. A later count, Umberto III, married a lady in 1164 who had previously been married to Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony. Neither of these connections would seem to justify adding the ducal arms of Saxony and the related arms of Westphalia and Angria to the arms of Savoy but perhaps the family was related in some way to the dukes of Saxony.

For the remaining arms and the title King of Cyprus, the key to the mystery is the name Lusignan.



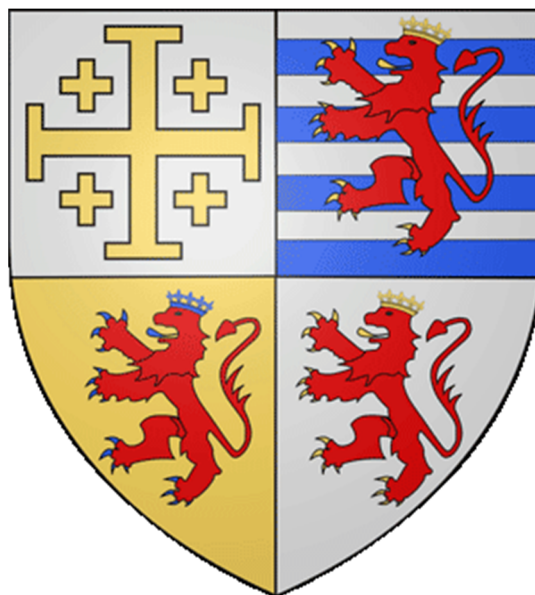
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Near_East

Map of 12th century crusader states. The House of Lusignan at this time controlled the kingdom of Jerusalem, principality of Antioch, and the county of Tripoli.

The House of Lusignan originated in Poitou in western France in the early 10th century. By the end of the 11th century, they had risen to become the most prominent petty lords in the region from their castle at Lusignan. In the time of the Crusades two younger brothers of the family, Amaury and then Guy, found their way to Jerusalem. In 1180 Guy married Sibylle, the sister of the Crusader King Baudoin IV of Jerusalem and eventually became King of Jerusalem in 1186. Guy's term as king is generally seen as a disaster; he was defeated by Saladin at the Battle of Hattin in 1187, and was imprisoned in Damascus as Saladin reconquered almost the entire kingdom. In 1191 Sibylle died and her half-sister Isabelle was proclaimed Queen of Jerusalem. In 1192 Guy de Lusignan left for Limassol and joined Richard Lion heart, king of England, in the conquest of Cyprus. Richard sold Cyprus to the Templars, who in turn sold it to Guy. Guy died in 1194, leaving Cyprus to his older brother Amaury. The Holy Roman Emperor crowned Amaury the first king of Cyprus and then in 1197 Amaury married Isabelle after the death of her previous husband, which brought the crown of Jerusalem back to the Lusignans. One of Amaury's first actions as king was to make a five year truce with the Muslims.

When Amaury died in 1205, his only surviving son, Hugues I, succeeded him as King of Cyprus while the kingdom of Jerusalem passed to Maria of Montferrat, eldest daughter of Isabelle and her previous husband Conrad. The Lusignan dynasty of sovereigns of Cyprus would last until 1475. In 1269 a later member of the family, Hugues III, was crowned King of Jerusalem, bringing Jerusalem back to the family once again. His descendants after 1269 regularly enjoyed the title of king of Jerusalem, even though in 1291 the last remnants of the Kingdom of Jerusalem were captured by Khalil, the Sultan of Egypt.

The loss of the kingdom of Jerusalem was, of course, not the end of Christian governments in the area, still reflected in the divisions of Lebanon today. They still retained territories to the north. In 1342 another Guy de Lusignan was elected King of Armenia (or Cilician Kingdom of Armenia) and took the name Constantine II. He was initially reluctant as the regent, Oshin of Corycos, was rumored to have poisoned the previous king and killed Guy's mother and two brothers. Under his leadership the Lusignans tried to impose Catholicism and the European way of life on the Armenian people. Eventually, this led the way to civil strife. Constantine was killed in an uprising in 1344, and the throne passed out of the Lusignan family to his distant cousin Gosdantin, who reigned as Constantine III. However, in 1373, another Lusignan, Léon V, was elected and crowned King of Armenia. Unfortunately, in 1375 Armenia was invaded by the Mameluks and Léon was forced to surrender, putting an end to the Cilician Kingdom of Armenia after three centuries of sovereignty. Léon and his family were held captive in Cairo for several years, until King Juan I of Castile ransomed him and



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Armoiries_Chypre_1393.svg

made him Lord of Madrid. The title of King of Armenia was claimed by his cousin, Jacques I of Cyprus, uniting it with the titles of Cyprus and Jerusalem. He added the lion of Armenia to his arms.

The last Lusignan king of Cyprus was King Jacques III, born in 1473, who lived only one year. The Venetians, now at the height of their power and having long coveted the island, soon pressured his mother the queen, Caterina Cornaro (who was Venetian), to leave Cyprus and relinquish her position in their favor. On 26 February 1489, the banner of St Mark floated over the castles of Cyprus and the Lusignan dynasty came to an end.

What has this convoluted but interesting history got to do with the coins of Savoy? Well, it is still convoluted but in 1434 Anne de Lusignan, daughter of King Janus of Cyprus, married Ludovico of Savoy. Her second son, also called Ludovico, married his cousin Queen of Cyprus and became King of Cyprus. However, in 1464, they were ousted by Charlotte's half-brother, Jacques the Bastard, who would marry Caterina Cornaro, and they fled to Rome. In 1485 the childless Charlotte surrendered her rights in Cyprus, Armenia, and Jerusalem to her heir, who was Carlo I of Savoy, aged 17 at the time. The House of Savoy added the Lusignan arms to their coat of arms and continued for many years to use the titles of King of the lost realms of Cyprus, Jerusalem and Armenia.

I recently came across in some ways the most ambitious claim of any European ruler on an undated Half Guldiner of Emperor Maximilian I (1490-1519). Here is a detailed description:



Figure 6

Obv.: ❁ MAXIMILIANVS ◦ ROMANOR ◦ IMPATOR ◦ AVGVST⁹ ARCHEDX AVSTRIE (august Emperor of the Romans, Archduke of Austria). Crowned half-figure rt. holding sword and scepter, breaking out of circle. Rev.: ❁ PLVRIVMQ ◦ EVROPE ◦ P(ro)VINCIAR ◦ REX ◦ PRINCEPS ◦ POTENTIS (and king of most lands of Europe and powerful prince) [N inverted in the inscription]. Crowned eagle arms in chain of Order of Golden Fleece between arms of Hungary (horizontal bars) and Austria (bar), below arms of Burgundy (diagonal bars) and Habsburg (lion l. in circle).

Mint: Hall. 34.75 mm. 15.27 g. Egg 5 (Type 4, Benedikt Burkhart, dc)

Most lands of Europe? How much could Maximilian really claim?

Maximilian was born in 1459 in Wiener Neustadt, a city south of Vienna, the son of Emperor Frederick III and Eleanor of Portugal. In 1477 he married Mary, the only daughter of Charles, Duke of Burgundy. From his father he inherited the historic Habsburg territories in Austria and modern day Switzerland. The Hungarians occupied a large part of Austria under the reign of his father Frederick but in 1490 Maximilian finally reconquered it and entered Vienna. At the same time he also acquired Tyrol which had been an independent duchy. Tyrol and Bavaria had gone to war after Bavaria demanded money back from Tyrol that had been loaned on the collateral of Tyrolean lands. The two countries asked Maximilian to step in to mediate the dispute. In response, he assumed the control of Tyrol and its debt. Maximilian's reign also saw the expansion of Habsburg dominion in terms of the gradual acquisition of territories in the county of Gorizia around 1500. The last prince of the Meinhardiner dynasty, Leonhard of Gorizia, concluded a contract of inheritance with the Habsburgs that enabled them to take over large parts of present-day Upper Carinthia and eastern Tyrol together with the Puster Valley in southern Tyrol and territories in the present-day border area between Italy and Slovenia. Maximilian's strengthened position in this region led to conflict with Venice, a powerful rival for influence on Friuli and the northern Italian Alpine region. His intervention in the Italian Wars was unsuccessful and did not result in lasting control of any significant Italian territories. However, he did make further territorial acquisitions in northern Tyrol. On the other hand, he lost control of his Swiss territories after the Swiss won a decisive victory against the Empire in the Battle of Dornach on 22 July 1499. Maximilian had no choice but to agree to a peace treaty signed on 22 September 1499 in Basel that granted the Swiss Confederacy independence from the Holy Roman Empire.

Through his wife (who died in 1492) Maximilian gained control of the Duchy of Burgundy, a huge territory at the time between France and Germany. The duchy was also claimed by the Louis XI of France under Salic Law (which excluded females from the inheritance of a throne or fief). Many Dutch nobles also opposed Maximilian. After a series of battles Maximilian and Charles VIII of France made peace at the Treaty of Senlis in 1493. Maximilian had to surrender Picardy and Franche-Comté but retained the Seventeen Provinces that made up the Netherlands.

All in all, at the time this coin was struck Maximilian ruled directly little more than modern Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. Of course, as Holy Roman Emperor, he also was the feudal lord of all the princes and dukes and counts and bishops and imperial cities of Germany and much of northern Italy. Nevertheless, the Kings of France, England, Scotland, the Scandinavian countries, Poland, Hungary, Aragon (and Naples) and Castile, let alone the Pope, would have considered Maximilian's claim to rule "most lands of Europe" exaggerated, to say the least.

Maximilian's claim perhaps came true with his grandson, Charles V, who was not only Holy Roman Emperor (1516-56) but inherited the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon (including their colonies in the New World), Southern Italy, Austria and the Low Countries.

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Yazı Mı, Tura Mı? C.D. Carson, NI #2636

Most numismatists have at least a nodding familiarity with the “toughra”, the stylized signature (usually of the Sultan) which, in place of portraiture or Western-style heraldry, forms the characteristic element of the coinage of the Ottoman Empire and its vassal states. The last coins of Turkey bearing this device, *tuğra* in modern orthography, were issued some ninety-five years ago, and yet it retains its currency in common speech. The colloquial Turkish terms for obverse and reverse are *tura* and *yazı* (writing); to flip a coin is “yazı tura atmak”, and where an American would call “heads or tails” before throwing, the Turk asks “yazı mı, tura mı?” — with thanks to Oğuz Yetkin of İzmir.



EGYPT, Abdul Hamid II (AH 1293-1327; 1876-1909 AD), Silver Proof 10-Qirish, Year 10 (1884) (KM 295).

Image courtesy of A.H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, London. www.baldwin.co.uk. Baldwin's Auctions Ltd, 6 May 2015, Auction 94, Lot 1074.

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